E. C. No. 646

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1969-70)

(FOURTH LOK SABHA)

HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER

Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Irrigation & Power— Kosi Project.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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CORRIGENDA
TO

Hundred and Seventeenth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Irrigation and Power-KOSI PROJECT

Page 3, Line 2, for 'authorites'

read 'authorities'

Page 9, Line 13, for 'instructed'

read 'intimated'

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51LSS(P)/69

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(1969-70)

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(1969-70)

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15. Shri Ramesh Chandra Vyas

CHAPTER I

REPORT

The Estimates Committee are glad to observe that the recommendations contained in their 68th Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Irrigation and Power—Kosi Project, have been replied to by Government generally to the Committee's satisfaction.

The Committee desire that final action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter V and further action on some of the recommendations contained in Chapter II may be furnished to the Committee as early as possible.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1) Para No. 1.28

The Committee note that while attempts were being made since 1893 for taming a turbulent river like the Kosi, no concrete steps could be taken in this direction till the achievement of Independence. It redounds to the credit of Indian engineers that they could prepare a comprehensive multi-purpose project for providing flood protection in the Kosi flood plane, irrigation facilities in Nepal and Bihar, generation of hydro-electric power and navigation on an extensive scale.

Reply of Government

The conclusion of the Estimates Committee has been noted.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 2) Para No. 1.29

The Committee note that the various items of the Project were sanctioned on a piecemeal basis and new schemes were added up from time to time. This naturally led to the recasting of the project in material details. While the Committee appreciate that in a project of such magnitude as Kosi, which was taken up for the first time in India, there was an absence of a complete integrated plan at the very beginning, they feel that steps should be taken, as far as possible, before sanctioning new projects to draw up an integrated plan in the initial stages so as to obivate the possibility of subsequent changes which usually result in delay and considerable additional expenditure.

Reply of Government

All the State Governments and Union Territories have been requested to keep the above recommendation in view while taking up new projects.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 3) Para No. 2.14

The Committee note that the estimated cost of the project has undergone as many as 12 revisions—generally in an upward direction—with the result that the original rough estimate of Rs. 37.31 crores prepared in 1954 is now estimated to cost in the neighbourhood of Rs. 85.34 crores *i.e.* an increase of about 130 per cent. While increase in cost of materials and wages has been partly responsible for this increase, the cost has also gone up because of changes in the design and scope of works and inclusion of new items. There has been a lack of any clear-cut demarcation of the

responsibilities with regard to the preparation of project estimates as is evident from the fact that several authorites were at one stage or the other engaged in the preparation and scrutiny of the estimates, which frequently were at variance with each other. It is also on record that there have been differences among experts in regard to the construction of the barrage and its utility for the purpose of flood control and safeguarding of embankments.

Reply of Government

The conclusion of the Estimates Committee has been noted.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 4) Para No. 2.15

The Committee cannot help concluding that frequent changes in the estimates of the project, due principally to change of designs and addition of items, could have been avoided, if the project had been sanctioned after a full investigation and preparation of a complete project report with carefully worked out estimates of cost. This underlines again the necessity of drawing up even in the initial stages an integrated project report after obtaining competent technical advice in regard to various components of the project so that the necessity of consulting different experts later on is obviated.

Reply of Government

All the State Governments and Union Territories have been requested to keep the above recommendation in view while taking up new projects.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 5) Para No. 2.16

The Committee would stress that it should be ensured that when a new project is taken up for execution, it should be sustained at the required optimum pace so as to complete it within the scheduled time, as any undue delay in the execution of the project leads to unavoidable increase in cost as well as the postponement of realisation of benefits from the project which again means slowing down the economic progress of the people in that area.

Reply of Government

All the State Governments and Union Territories have been requested to keep the above recommendation in view while taking up new projects.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 6) Para No. 2.17

The Committee further note that the Central Water & Power Commission has taken quite a long time to scrutinise and approve the revised

estimates when submitted. For example, even before the revised estimates submitted in 1965 could be cleared, another upward revision of the estimates became necessary in 1968. The Committee would like to stress that as and when revised estimates for any project become unavoidable the same should be examined fully and expeditiously by the Central Water & Power Commission so as to avoid delays, doubts and uncertainties about execution.

Reply of Government

The State Government have been requested to send to the Central Water & Power Commission the latest Revised Estimates of the Kosi Project with all necessary details to enable them to scrutinise the estimates, which have been revised due to change in the scope of the project.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

It should be ensured that the Central Water & Power Commission examines fully and expeditiously the Revised Estimates.

Recommendation (Serial No. 7) Para No. 2.24

The Committee are aware that as the work of execution of the Kosi Project and its various units are completed, there will be need for reduction in the strength of staff at present employed. Especially, after the work on construction of water courses tapers off, the staff at present employed thereon would be surplus. The Committee suggest that the State Government endeavour, by advance planning, to see that as and when the staff becomes surplus in the Kosi Project, they are gradually absorbed in other projects in the State.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to endeavour, as suggested by the Estimates Committee, by advance planning to see that as and when the staff become surplus in the Kosi Project, they are gradually absorbed in the other projects in the State.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 8) Para No. 2.25

The Committee note the composition and functions of the Kosi Control Board. From the list of meetings of the Control Board furnished to the Committee it is observed that no meeting of the Control Board was held during 1963 and 1964 and no meeting appears to have been held since 1965. In view of the fact that work on the construction of the Rajpur Canal, Western Kosi Canal, Extension of embankments and the Kosi Hydel Station is still outstanding, the Committee feel that the Control Board should meet frequently to review the progress of work and give necessary direction to the project authorities for accelerating the pace of work.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to keep in view the recommendation of the Estimates Committee to the effect that the Kosi Control Board should meet frequently and that meetings of the Control Board arranged with a view to reviewing the progress of work on the Project and giving necessary direction to the Project authorities for accelerating the pace of work.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 9) Para No. 2.43

From the pattern of provision and expenditure made for the Kosi Project during the first three Five Year Plans, the Committee note that the Project authorities have not only been able to utilise the Plan provisions in full but have also incurred expenditure in excess of the Plan provisions. They are glad to note that there has been fuller utilisation of the budget provisions from year to year.

Reply of Government

The observation of the Estimates Committee has been noted.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 11) Para No. 2.45

In this connection, the Committee would like to emphasise that alongside the construction of the canals and the watercourses, suitable measures should be taken for flood control including maintenance of the embankments, etc., so that the expenditure incurred on the project is not rendered infructuous by sudden and heavy floods. The Committee are glad to note that at the beginning of each year, sections are checked and model experiments are done with a view to see what preventive measures, if any, could be taken.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to take suitable measures for flood control including embankments etc. as recommended by the Committee.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 12) Para No. 3.13

The Committee note that the Kosi Project which was approved in 1953 contained as one of its major components a barrage designed principally to control the floods in the Kosi river. They also note that the work on the barrage was completed in 1963 at a total cost of Rs. 30 crores. The Committee would like to emphasise that now that the barrage has been completed, the question of its proper maintenance should be given the attention it deserves so that there may not be any breaches in future and the life of the barrage may be extended considerably.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to consider the question of proper maintenance of the Kosi Barrage.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to know the action taken by the Government of Bihar in this regard.

Recommendation (Serial No. 14) Para No. 3.15

The Committee are also unhappy that there has been delay in the consideration of the suggestion made by the Kosi Technical Committee for the construction of a second barrage at Dagmara. They feel that it would have been better if experts from Central Water & Power Research Station, Poona, had been associated with the work of the Kosi Technical Committee in their official capacity in the initial stages so that agreed decisions could have been taken. As matters stand at present, the Committee find that the proposal is under consideration of the Government of Bihar and a final decision will be taken by the Central Water & Power Commission after receiving the opinion of the Bihar Government. The Committee hope that an early decision in the matter will now be taken.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to take necessary steps to expedite decision on the suggestion made by the Kosi Technical Committee for the construction of a second Barrage across the Kosi at Dagmara.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

Final action taken by the Government of Bihar may be intimated for the information of the Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 15) Para No. 3.30

The Committee note that the entire flood control benefits of the Kosi Project are dependent upon the proper and adequate maintenance of flood embankments. Now that the river has been confined to a set course within the embankments, a lot of developmental activities have taken place all around the area and any major breach in the embankment is likely to lead to very heavy loss of life and property. The Committee have further noted that the embankments have been subjected to repeated attacks year after year and breaches have already taken place on several occasions. From the very beginning, the experts visualised an efficient and effective maintenance organisation, for the preservation of the embankments. The Committee would like to emphasise that top priority should be accorded to the maintenance of embankments. The Committee would also like to emphasise that a system of round-the-clock vigil particularly in the flood season should be developed. For this purpose the co-operation of the local population should be solicited and a suitable training scheme introduced.

Reply of Government

The State Government have been requested to accord top priority to the maintenance of the flood embankments of the Kosi Project as suggested by the Committee. They have also been requested to develop, with the co-operation of the local population, a system of round-the-clock vigil particularly in the flood season and to introduce a suitable training scheme.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 17) Para No. 3.32

It is also desirable to investigate thoroughly the reasons for the breaches that have occurred from time to time to ensure that appropriate preventive measures to avoid recurrence are taken in time.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to investigate thoroughly the reasons for the breaches that have occured from time to time and to take appropriate preventive measures to avoid recurrence of such breaches.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 19) Para No. 3.40

The Committee note that the Eastern Kosi Canal when completed will have a considerable impact on the economy of Purnea and Saharsa districts of Bihar. The Committee have also noted that when the full irrigation potentialities are created, the canal would provide additional irrigation to about 14 lakh acres and would result in additional production annually of 18 lakh tons of foodgrains and other crops. During their visit to the Kosi Project area, the Committee were shown some of the areas where benefits of irrigation have already been realised and the Committee were greatly impressed by the results of the irrigation system introduced as a result of the Kosi Project. The Committee also appreciate the various steps taken by the Government for making the irrigation water available to the cultivators, as and when the canals are ready. The Committee are inclined to agree with the views of the Project Authorities that if all the steps for the utilisation of irrigation potential had been taken a year or two earlier the benefits flowing from irrigation would have been correspondingly advanced.

Reply of Government

The observation of the Committee has been noted.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 20) Para No. 3.41

The Committee would like to emphasise that in the present context of the economic situation of the country, when there is an all-round need

for attainment of self-sufficiency in foodgrains, the early realisation of irrigation benefits from Kosi Canals has assumed increased importance since the availability of irrigation facilities from Eastern Kosi Canal is not dependent upon rain-fall. The Committee need hardly stress that every endeavour should be made to complete the remaining works of the Eastern Kosi Canal at an early date and efforts should be made to achieve optimum utilisation of irrigation potential, if possible, earlier than the target date as the same would go a long way in transforming the economic situation in the country.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to make every endeavour to complete the remaining works of the Eastern Kosi Canal at an early date with a view to achieving optimum utilisation of irrigation potential, if possible, earlier than the target date. The State Government is drawing up a Plan for the early completion of the Eastern Kosi Canal including Rajpur Canal system.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 23) Para No. 3.59

The Committee are glad to note that the Government have undertaken the construction of the Chatra Canal which will result in great benefits to the people of Nepal. The Committee are also glad to note that considerable progress of work had been made on the construction of the Canal and irrigation is expected to be provided from this Canal from June, 1969. The Committee hope that its completion will further strengthen the traditional friendship between the two countries *viz.* India and Nepal.

Reply of Government

The observation of the Committee has been noted.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 26) Para No. 4.13

The river has been subject to floods and it has been exerting great pressure on the embankments practically every year. It is, however, gratifying to note that the barrage and the embankments have on the whole withstood the onslaught of the yearly floods quite well and except in the case of 1968 floods, there has not been any major breach.

Reply of Government

The observation of the Estimates Committee has been noted.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 27) Para No. 4.14

The Committee feel unhappy that although more than two and a half years have elapsed since the Kosi Technical Committee submitted their report, final decisions and effective follow up action have not been taken

on a number of recommendations. The Committee would urge that action on the pending recommendations of the Kosi Technical Committee should be taken without any further delay and the matter given the utmost consideration that it deserves.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to take action on the pending recommendations of the Kosi Technical Committee without any further delay.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

The action taken by the Government of Bihar on the pending recommendations of the Kosi Technical Committee may be instructed for the information of the Committee in due course.

Recommendation (Serial No. 29) Para No. 4.16

The Committee regret to observe from the report of the Chief Engineer, Central Water & Power Commission that because of a number of fox holes and rat holes, water could pass through the embankments causing them to sink and be breached, thus resulting in heavy loss of life and property. The Committee would emphasise that adequate measures should be taken to check the embankments thoroughly and continuously and plug the holes as soon as they are noticed. The Committee are constrained to observe that the fact that the Overseer concerned and the S.D.O. were not present at the time of breach of embankment only shows the casual manner in which the work of superintendence and supervision is being carried out. The Committee would like that the circumstances under which no responsible official could be present at the time of breach of embankment should be investigated and adequate measures such as issue of guide lines be taken to avoid the recurrence of such eventualities in future.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to send a detailed report, after necessary investigations, indicating the circumstances under which no responsible official could be present at the time of the breach of the Kosi embankment during the October, 1968 floods. The State Government have also been requested to take adequate measures such as issue of guidelines to avoid recurrence of such eventualities in future.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

The final action taken by the Government of Bihar may be intimated for the information of the Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 32) Para No. 4.34

The Committee hope that the Kosi Command area a major part of which was so far unfit for cultivation and was simply a devastated track

of swampy land covered with jungles of 'Khans' and 'Pater' would be reclaimed and modern methods of cultivation introduced there. The Committee are glad that there is great enthusiasm among people of the area to adopt triple cropping pattern and utilise the latest techniques of cultivation. They hope that necessary financial assistance and inputs for agricultural purpose will be provided to them in time.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to consider the question of giving necessary financial assistance and inputs for agricultural purposes to the people of Kosi command area.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 34) Para No. 5.5

The Committee note the achievement of the Kosi Project, which now is in an advanced stage of completion. They have no doubt that the Project, when finally completed, will stand as a landmark in the mighty endeavour of the people of the country for their economic upliftment and will symbolise man's perennial struggle against the ravages of nature.

Reply of Government

The observation of the Estimates Committee has been noted.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLY

Recommendation (Serial No. 10) Para No. 2.44

While there has been difficulty in providing adequate funds in the form of loan assistance for the project during 1967-68, the Committee are happy to note that in 1968-69 the entire amount required by the Government of Bihar for the Kosi Project is being provided. Considering the present stage of development of the Kosi Project and the need for providing irrigation on a massive scale, the Committee hope that shortage of funds will not be allowed to stand in the way of speedy execution and completion of the residual items of work, namely, the construction of the various canals and the water courses.

Reply of Government

The outlays for the individual projects within the overall State Annual Plans are decided by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Governments concerned. The Kosi Project is a State Plan Scheme and if the State Government were keen on securing a larger outlay for this project, they could have attempted to find additional funds by suitable adjustments within the approved Plan outlay. The Central assistance for State Plan Schemes was and continues to be distributed among the States on the basis of objective criteria and it is not possible to give exceptional treatment to a particular State in respect of a particular project.

The Central assistance for State Plan Schemes during the Fourth Plan will not be related to any individual project or scheme but will be provided in the shape of block loans and grants on an overall basis. To ensure that the State Government provide adequate funds to the project, the outlay for the Kosi Project is earmarked by the Planning Commission so that any short-fall in expenditure on this project would entail proportionate reduction both in the loans and grants components of Central assistance.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendations (Serial No. 13) Para No. 3.14

The Committee are unhappy to state that there have been differences of opinion among experts as regards the probable life of the barrage. They would like to be assured that the barrage, which has been built at an enormous cost, is expected to give satisfactory service for a long period.

Reply of Government

The State Government have been requested to consider the desirability of appointing a Body of Experts with a view to assessing the possible life of the Kosi Barrage.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

PARLIAMENT LIBR

Recommendation (Serial No. 21) Para No. 3.47

The Committee note that on completion, the Rajpur Canal is expected to irrigate an area of about 3.97 lakh acres and that while special importance has been attached to this scheme which promises to provide immediate benefits, an accelerated programme for its completion could not be put through because of shortage of funds. In 1967-68, against a requirement of Rs. 100 lakhs, only a sum of Rs. 56 lakhs could be provided and in the current year only half of the requirements of the Canal are being met. The Committee recommend that in view of the magnitude of the irrigation benefits which are accruable on the completion of the canal and keeping in view the declared policy of the Government to give accelerated financial assistance to the Projects which are in an advanced state of construction, additional funds should be provided to the Bihar Government for the early completion of the Canal particularly when the Bihar Government claim that they are in a position to utilise more funds than what are being allotted to them.

Reply of Government

The amount required for the completion of the Kosi Project and Rajpur Canal has been fully provided for in the Fourth Plan during which 10% of the total Central assistance has been allocated to the various States on the basis of continuing irrigation and Power Projects. The responsibility for making allocations to various Projects and sub-allocations in respect of the various components of the Project in any year rests with the State Government. It will be open for the State Government to increase the outlay on the Project, within their overall plan outlay, in consultation with the Ministry of Irrigation & Power and the Planning Commission. The resources position of the Government of India did not permit of providing an assistance of a larger size than Rs. 353 lakhs for 1967-68 and Rs. 433 lakhs during 1968-69. However in 1968-69, the entire amount required by the Govt. of Bihar had been agreed to be provided and the scheme as drawn up by the State Govt. was fully financed during that year.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Recommendation (Serial No. 35) Para No. 5.6

The Committee have been told in the course of evidence that the Government of India are giving financial assistance outside the State Plan for six or seven selected projects in 1968-69. In view of the fact that accelerated assistance to such projects of national importance outside the State Plans will go a long way in their expeditious completion, the Committee suggest that Government may examine the desirability of providing funds to them outside the State Plans in future also. The Committee trust that paucity of funds will not be allowed to stand in the way of early completion of such projects.

Reply of Government

Though some accelerated financial assistance was given to a few River Valley Projects for 1968-69 in order to step up the tempo of their execution there was no general decision to provide financial assistance to any State Plan Scheme outside the Plan outlay. The question of giving such accelerated assistance to the Kosi Project did not arise because the entire amount

required by the Government of Bihar had been agreed to be provided in the Annual Plan.

The Central assistance for State Plan Schemes during the Fourth Plan period will not be relatable to any individual project or scheme but will be provided in block loans and grants on an overall basis. 10% of the total Central assistance to the States has been allocated on the basis of need of continuing irrigation and power projects. To ensure that the State Government provided adequate funds to the Project, the outlay for the Kosi Project has been earmarked so that any shortfall in expenditure on this project would entail proportionate reduction both in the loans and grants components of the Central assistance. However, it is open for the State Government to increase the outlay on the project within their overall plan outlay in consultation with the Ministry of Irrigation & Power and the Planning Commission.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

—NIL—

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation (Serial No. 16) Para No. 3.31

The Committee further suggest that a careful and thorough study of the tendency of the river to attack particular points (as at Dalwa) should be immediately made and preventive steps taken forthwith so that breaches may not occur at those points after repeated pressure from the river.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to consider the above suggestion of the Committee.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

Final action taken by the Government of Bihar in the matter may be intimated.

Recommendation (Serial No. 18) Para No. 3.33

The Committee would also like to emphasise that all the steps suggested by the Kosi Technical Committee and the Central Water & Power Research Station, Poona should be undertaken without any delay and shortage of funds should not be allowed to stand in the way of effective and efficient maintenance organisation for the embankments.

Reply of Government

The State Government have been requested to take necessary action to have an effective and efficient maintenance Organisation for the flood embankments of the Kosi Project as suggested by the Kosi Technical Committee and the Central Water & Power Research Station, Poona.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

The concrete measures taken in pursuance of the recommendations of the Kosi Technical Committee and Central Water & Power Station, Poona may be intimated.

Recommendation (Serial No. 22) Para No. 3.52

The Committee note that the scheme for Western Kosi Canal was approved in 1960-61 but work on the Canal has not yet started with the result that the water potential has remained unutilised. Now that an agreement has been signed with His Majesty's Government of Nepal and surveys of the alignment of the Canal have been finalised, the Committee would like

to stress that work on this canal should be started as early as possible and every effort should be made to complete the construction of the canal during the Fourth Plan period.

Reply of Government

The question of obtaining the approval of His Majesty's Government of Nepal, to the alignment of the first 22 miles of the Western Kosi Canal is under active consideration of the Government.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

Final action taken in the matter may be intimated.

Recommendation (Serial No. 24) Para No. 3.69

The Committee feel that there has been considerable delay in the construction of the Kosi Hydel Station which was expected to start power generation from 1966-67. This has deprived a large number of people of cheap electricity in an area where no other source of power is available at present. This delay has also affected the utilisation of irrigation potential, since due to the location of the power house in the main canal, water could not be utilised and bye-pass canals had to be constructed later. While appreciating that some of the reasons contributing to the delay like seizure of machinery by Pakistan and shortage of foreign exchange were unforseen, the Committee cannot help reaching the conclusion that lack of proper planning has also been partly responsible for the delay. The Committee hope that the present target regarding the commissioning of power house would be adhered to.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to take necessary action to have the Kosi Hydel Station commissioned as early as possible.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

The date by which Kosi Hydel Station would be commissioned might be indicated precisely.

Recommendation (Serial No. 25) Para No. 4.12

The Committee note that although the construction of the barrage and embankments have by and large solved the flood problem of the River Kosi and provided protection to a large area, the dangers created or likely to be created by the river have not yet been completely eliminated.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to examine the observation of the Estimates Committee with a view to seeing how far the remaining flood problems of the river Kosi could be solved.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW. IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

Final reply of Government is awaited.

Recommendation (Serial No. 28) Para No. 4.15

The Committee would in particular like to emphasise the need for developing a fool-proof flood-warning system so that evacuation measures could be resorted to on an emergency basis when needed and loss of lives and property averted.

Reply of Government

The State Government have been requested to consider the above recommendation of the Estimates Committee.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW.IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

Final decision by the Govt. of Bihar for developing a fool-proof warning system may be intimated.

Recommendation (Serial No. 30) Para No. 4.17

The Committee note that a number of suggestions have been made by the Minister of Irrigation & Power and the Chief Engineer, Central Water & Power Commission for solving the flood problems of the River Kosi. They would urge that early and speedy action on these recommendations should be taken. The Committee feel that there cannot be any cut and dried formulae for solving the flood problem of the river Kosi. Continuous studies of the behaviour of the river should be made by project authorities and the problems discussed periodically at seminars which should be attended by experts already working on other river valley projects, universities and research institutes.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar have been requested to consider the above suggestion of the Estimates Committee.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW.IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

Final action taken by Government of Bihar for making a continuous study of the behaviour of the River Kosi by the Project authorities may be intimated.

Recommendation (Serial No. 31) Para No. 4.18

The Committee would also like to stress that a thorough research into the water logging problem in the Kosi area should be undertaken particularly in view of the fact that this problem is going to be a normal feature in the case of practically all the river valley projects.

Reply of Government

The Government of Bihar were requested to consider the recommendation of the Estimates Committee that a thorough research into the water logging problem in the Kosi area should be undertaken.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW.IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

Final action taken by the Government of Bihar for undertaking a thorough research into the water-logging problem in the Kosi river may be intimated.

Recommendation (Serial No. 33) Para No. 4.35

The Committee would further recommend that a survey of the Kosi Command Area should be undertaken by the National Council of Applied Economic Research or some other suitable agency to assess the extent and magnitude of the benefits that have accrued to the people of the area and its impact on the economy of Bihar. The Committee feel that such a study would be highly beneficial for the development of cultivable command area in other river valley projects also.

Reply of Government

All the State Governments and Union Territories have been requested to consider the above recommendation of the Estimates Committee.

[Ministry of Irrigation & Power O.M. No. 79(1)/69-DW.IV, dated the 10th December, 1969].

Comments of the Committee

The specific action taken for conducting the survey of the Kosi Command Area may be intimated to the Committee in due course.

NEW DELHI;
February 27, 1970
Phalguna 8, 1891 (*Saka*)

M. THIRUMALA RAO,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee

APPENDIX

(*Vide* Introduction to Report)

Analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 68th Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha)

1. Total number of recommendations	35
2. Recommendations which have been accepted by Government (*vide* recommendations Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27, 29, 32, 34 included in Chapter II)	
Number	22
Percentage to total	63%
3. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply (*vide* recommendations Nos. 10, 13, 21, 35 included in Chapter III)	
Number	4
Percentage to total	11%
4. Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee	Nil
5. Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited (*vide* recommendations Nos. 16, 18, 22, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33 included in Chapter V)	
Number	9
Percentage to total	26%

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